

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the examiner for the careful examination given to the present application. The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action and amended as necessary. It is respectfully submitted that the application is patentable over the art of record. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indicated allowability of claims 3-8 if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, such claims have been amended herein to overcome the rejection(s) set forth in the Office Action.

Claim 1 has also been amended herein in accordance with the examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 are requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi, et al. (EP 0854670). For at least the following reasons, the examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended herein to substantially include the limitations of claim 8. Takashi et al. does not teach or suggest that a position correction value of a suction section at each of the first and second groups of the suction nozzles is changed according to a shift amount, as required by amended claim 1. As conceded by the Examiner in the Office action dated June 3, 2003, a position correction value is absent from the cited references, including Takashi et al. Accordingly, because Takashi et al. does not teach or suggest each and every limitation as set forth in claim 1, Takashi et al. cannot make obvious claim 1 or claims 2 and 9-11, which depend therefrom.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest every limitation as set forth in the subject claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections based upon the references is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/940,743
Amdt. dated July 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2004

If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33906.

Respectfully submitted,

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